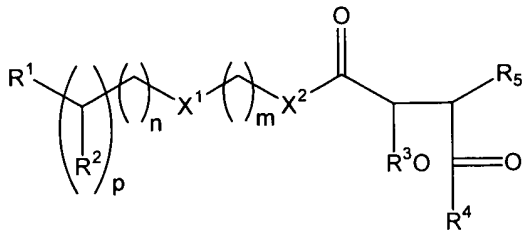
a.) Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method to inhibit proteasome ~~inhibitor~~ comprising~~, as an active ingredient,~~ a step of administering to a mammal an effective amount of ~~a carboxylic acid derivative~~ a compound represented by the formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(I)

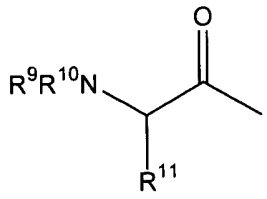
~~<wherein~~ wherein

m and n ~~are the same or different and~~ independently represent an integer of 0 to 10;

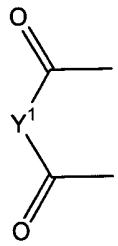
p represents 0 or 1;

R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted alicyclic alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl or NR^6R^7 {wherein R^6 represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, or substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, and R^7 represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, CW^1R^8 (wherein R^8 represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkylamino, substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl,

substituted or unsubstituted aralkylamino, or substituted or unsubstituted aralkyloxy, and W^1 represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom), or the formula:



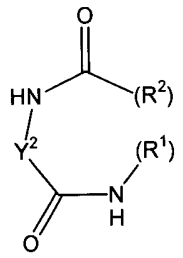
(wherein R^9 represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, or substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl; R^{10} represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, CW^2R^{8a} (wherein R^{8a} and W^2 have the same ~~significance~~ meanings as ~~the above~~ R^8 and W^1, respectively), substituted or unsubstituted alkylsulfonyl, substituted or unsubstituted arylsulfonyl, or $PW^3R^{12}{}_2$ (wherein R^{12}'s ~~are the same or different and~~ independently represent substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, or substituted or unsubstituted aryl; and W^3 has the same ~~significance~~ meaning as ~~the above~~ W^1); or R^9 and R^{10} together represent the formula:



(wherein Y^1 represents substituted or unsubstituted alkylene or substituted or unsubstituted arylene); and R^{11} represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, or substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl)};

R^2 represents a hydrogen atom, COR^{13} ~~(wherein~~ {wherein R^{13} represents hydroxy, substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted

alkenyloxy, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyloxy, substituted or unsubstituted alicyclic alkylalkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted aroylalkoxy, or $NR^{14}R^{15}$ (wherein R^{14} represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, or substituted or unsubstituted aryl; and R^{15} represents substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkoxycarbonylalkyl, amino, substituted or unsubstituted alkylamino, or substituted or unsubstituted arylamino; or R^{14} and R^{15} together with the adjacent N form a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic ~~group)) or CH_2OR^{3a} (wherein~~ group)} or CH_2OR^{3a} {wherein R^{3a} represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkanoyl, substituted or unsubstituted aroyl, or $SiR^{16}{}_3$ (wherein R^{16}'s ~~are the same or different and~~ independently represent substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, or substituted or unsubstituted ~~aryl));~~ aryl)}, or R^1 and R^2 together represent the formula:



(wherein Y^2 represents substituted or unsubstituted alkylene);

X^1 represents a bond, substituted or unsubstituted alkylene, substituted or unsubstituted alicyclic alkylene, substituted or unsubstituted alkenylene, or substituted or unsubstituted arylene;

X^2 represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or NR^{17} (wherein R^{11} represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, or substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl);

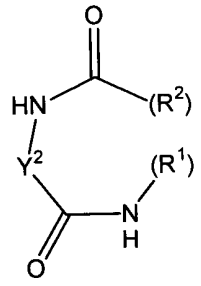
R^3 has the same ~~significance~~ meaning as ~~the above~~ R^{3a};

R^4 represents hydroxy, mercapto, substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy, or substituted or unsubstituted alkylthio; or R^3 and R^4 together represent a bond; and

R^5 represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl, or substituted or unsubstituted ~~aralkyl~~ aralkyl.

2. (Currently Amended) The method to inhibit proteasome ~~inhibitor~~ according to claim 1, wherein R^3 and R^4 together represent a bond.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~carboxylic acid derivative or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~ method to inhibit proteasome according to claim 1, wherein R^4 is hydroxy, or substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy; p is 1; R^1 is a hydrogen atom or NR^6R^7 ~~(wherein each of R^6 and R^7 has the same significance as defined above)~~, or R^1 and R^2 together ~~are the formula~~ form:



~~(wherein Y^2 has the same significance as defined above)~~; X^1 is substituted or unsubstituted alicyclic alkylene, or substituted or unsubstituted arylene; and X^2 is NR^{17} ~~(wherein R^{17} has the same significance as defined above)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~carboxylic acid derivative or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~ method to inhibit proteasome according to claim 1, wherein R^4 is mercapto, or substituted or unsubstituted alkylthio, or R^3 and R^4 together are a bond; X^2 is NR^{17} ~~(wherein R^{17} has the same significance as defined above) [when~~ with the proviso that when m is 0; n and p are 1; R^2 is carboxy; R^3 and R^4 together are a bond; R^5 is sec-butyl; and X^1 is cyclopropylene or ethylene, then R^1 is neither NHC (=O) –C (CH_3) NH_2 nor NHC (=O) –C (CH_3) NHC (=O) O –C ~~(CH_3)$_3$]~~ (CH_3)$_3$.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~carboxylic acid derivative or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~ method to inhibit proteasome according to claim 3, wherein R^1 is a hydrogen atom or NR^6 R^7 ~~(wherein each of R^6 and R^7 has the same significance as defined above)~~.

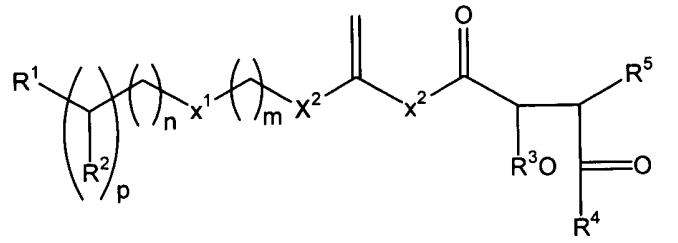
6. (Currently Amended) The ~~carboxylic acid derivative or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~ method to inhibit proteasome according to claim 5, wherein R^1 is NR^6R^7 ~~(wherein each of R^6 and R^7 has the same significance as defined above)~~; X^1 is cyclopropylene or alkylene; and X^2 is NH.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~carboxylic acid derivative or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~ method to inhibit proteasome according to claim 4, wherein R^4 is mercapto, or substituted or unsubstituted alkylthio; R^1 is NR^6R^7 ~~(wherein each of R^6 and R^7 has the same significance as defined above)~~; and X^1 is cyclopropylene or alkylene.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~carboxylic acid derivative or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~ method to inhibit proteasome according to claim 4, wherein R^3 and R^4 together are a bond.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~carboxylic acid derivative or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~ method to inhibit proteasome according to claim 8, wherein m is 0; n and p are 1; R^1 is NR^6 R^7 ~~(wherein each of R^6 and R^7 has the same significance as defined above)~~; R^2 is COR^{13a} (wherein R^{13a} is alkylamino, aralkyloxy or aralkylamino); R^5 is alkyl; X^1 is cyclopropylene, alkylene, or substituted or unsubstituted phenylene; and X^2 is NH.

10. (Currently Amended) A process for producing ~~the carboxylic acid derivative according to claim 1~~ a compound represented by the formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof



(I)

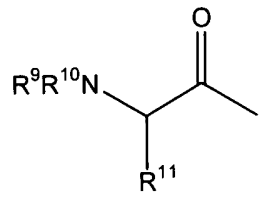
wherein

m and n independently represent an integer of 0 to 10;

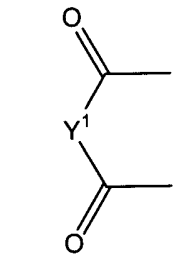
p represents 0 or 1;

R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted alicyclic alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl or NR^6R^7 {wherein R^6 represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, or substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, and R^7 represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, CW^1R^8 (wherein R^8 represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkylamino, substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl,

substituted or unsubstituted aralkylamino, or substituted or unsubstituted aralkyloxy, and W^1 represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom), or the formula:



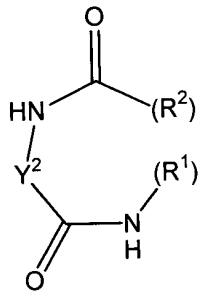
(wherein R^9 represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, or substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl; R^{10} represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, CW^2R^{8a} (wherein R^{8a} and W^2 have the same meanings as R^8 and W^1, respectively), substituted or unsubstituted alkylsulfonyl, substituted or unsubstituted arylsulfonyl, or $PW^3R^{12}_2$ (wherein R^{12}'s independently represent substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, or substituted or unsubstituted aryl; and W^3 has the same meaning as W^1); or R^9 and R^{10} together represent the formula:



(wherein Y^1 represents substituted or unsubstituted alkylene or substituted or unsubstituted arylene); and R^{11} represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, or substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl)};

R^2 represents a hydrogen atom, COR^{13} {wherein R^{13} represents hydroxy, substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted alkenyloxy,

substituted or unsubstituted aralkyloxy, substituted or unsubstituted alicyclic alkylalkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted aroylalkoxy, or $NR^{14}R^{15}$ (wherein R^{14} represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, or substituted or unsubstituted aryl; and R^{15} represents substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkoxycarbonylalkyl, amino, substituted or unsubstituted alkylamino, or substituted or unsubstituted arylamino; or R^{14} and R^{15} together with the adjacent N form a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group)} or CH_2OR^{3a} {wherein R^{3a} represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkanoyl, substituted or unsubstituted aroyl, or SiR^{16}_3 (wherein R^{16}'s independently represent substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, or substituted or unsubstituted aryl)},or R^1 and R^2 together represent the formula:



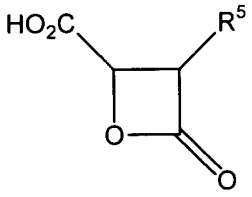
(wherein Y^2 represents substituted or unsubstituted alkylene);

X^1 represents a bond, substituted or unsubstituted alkylene, substituted or unsubstituted alicyclic alkylene, substituted or unsubstituted alkenylene, or substituted or unsubstituted arylene; ~~and~~

X^2 is NR^{17} (wherein R^{11} represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, or substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl);

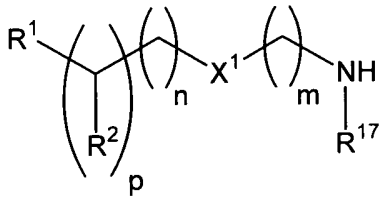
R^5 represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl, or substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising the steps of:

reacting a carboxylic acid represented by the formula (II):



(II)

~~(wherein R^5 has the same significance as defined above) is reacted~~ with an amine represented by the formula (III):



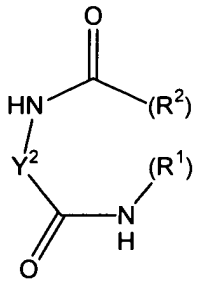
(III)

~~(wherein each of m, n, p, R^1, R^2, R^{17} and X^1 has the same significance as defined above)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~carboxylic acid~~ process according to claim 10 , wherein R^5 is substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl, or substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, or a salt thereof.

12. (Currently Amended) The process ~~amine~~ according to claim 10, wherein m is 0; n and p are 1; R^1 is NR^6R^7 ~~(wherein each of R^6 and R^7 has the same significance as defined above)~~; R^2 is COR^{13} ~~(wherein R^{13} has the same significance as~~

~~defined above)~~ or CH_2OR^{3a} ~~(wherein R^{3a} has the same significance as defined above)~~, or R^1 and R^2 together are the formula:



~~(wherein y^2 has the same significance as defined above)~~; and X^1 vis cyclopropylene, or a salt thereof.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~amine or the salt thereof~~ process according to claim 12, wherein R^1 is amino and R^{17} is a hydrogen atom.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~amine or the salt thereof~~ process according to claim 13, wherein R^2 is carboxy.

Claims 15-22 (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method to inhibit proteasome ~~comprising a process in which an effective amount of the carboxylic acid derivative or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~ according to any one of claims ~~3 to 9 is administered to a mammal including~~ 1 to 9, wherein said compound is administered to a human.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method of inhibiting proteasome accoding to claim 23, which is for treatment or prevention of a tumor ~~comprising a step of administering an effective amount of the carboxylic acid derivative or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 3 to 9 is administered to a mammal including human~~.